

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction species requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ELECTION OF CLAIMS

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-20. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

| <u>GROUP</u> | <u>CLAIMS</u> | <u>CLASS</u> |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| I | 1-10 | 244, Subclass 17.11 |
| II | 11-20 | 29 |

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, Applicants have elected GROUP I, claims 1-10 for initial examination. This election is with traverse.

As set forth in MPEP 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it may contain a claim to independent or distinct inventions.

It is respectfully submitted that examination of all of the claims in the present application would not place an undue burden on the Examiner. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's Restriction Requirement is improper since Class 244 would have

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Response to Restriction Requirement filed May 14, 2004

Reply to Restriction Requirement dated April 14, 2004

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to be searched in order to examine each of claims 1-20.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his Restriction Requirement and act on all of the embodiments in the present application. If the Examiner continues with his Restriction Requirement, the Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims at a later date if they so desire.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

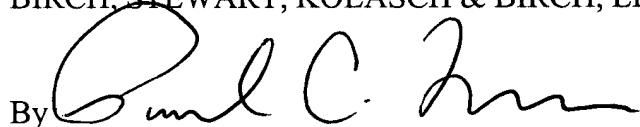
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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